

## INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Hungary

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a seven-page report

This report contains information on the civil air defense program in Hungary, including a description of air defense lectures, passive defense preparedness, and biological and chemical warfare defensive measures.

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Civil Air Defense in HungaryGeneral Information

1. All employees of the VI. Auto Traffic Main Department of the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters were required to attend a 10-hour series of civilian air defense lectures which emphasized defense against atomic attack. The lectures were held in conference room, No. 341, on the fourth floor of the building which housed the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters on Dob utca 75 --81, Budapest VII. The lectures were held daily in five, two-hour periods from 0700 to 0900, from July to September 1958. 50X1-HUM  
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2. The group [ ] which [ ] attended the lectures numbered about 50 and included mostly administrative employees. The lectures for this group were given by Dr. Sandor Fazekas, a department chief within the Ministry. He was a former railroad employee, and a member of the Communist Party. Dr. Fazekas was a law graduate, and [ ] he was selected as an air defense lecturer, 50X1-HUM because of his technical training, but because he was a gifted speaker. He was supplied with all the necessary materials for his lectures. Another group of employees of the VI. Auto Traffic Main Department, mostly engineers, attended another series of air defense lectures presented by Imre Csaszar, an engineer, and employee of the Ministry.
3. Attendance at all air defense lectures was compulsory, and an attendance record was maintained. The official purpose of these lectures was to acquaint the workers with the problems of civilian air defense against an enemy air attack. According to source, the lectures were given at the Ministry to avoid harassment of employees by local authorities who insisted that all employees attend air defense lectures at their place of residence. All employees who completed a lecture series were given a certificate stating that the series had been completed. The lectures were not taken seriously, and the participants were not required to take notes. At one time, [ ] group was given, unexpectedly, a written examination during the last lecture period. In order to avoid 50X1-HUM embarrassment, Dr. Fazekas distributed specific questions with ready answers to all participants.
4. It was customary for certain key employees at the Ministry to be selected and appointed to supervise air defense lectures at their respective subordinate units. 50X1-HUM  
[ ] This supervisory assignment had been in effect since 1957. [ ] the lecture supervisors did not have the slightest idea about air defense. However, since it was an administrative assignment, it had to be fulfilled. 50X1-HUM

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Organization

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5.

[redacted]

[redacted] All the air defense lecturers [redacted] were civilian clothes. The air defense officer for the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters was Ferenc Simon, [redacted]

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However, he was a careerist rather than a convinced Party member. He acted as the liaison officer between the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters and the other government agencies in all matters concerning air defense. Furthermore, he organized the air defense lectures for all employees of the Ministry, assigned lecturers and supervisors, and procured the necessary equipment for the lectures. He had over-all responsibility for safeguarding the interests of the Ministry in the event of an air attack and/or other emergencies. [redacted] all government agencies had an organized air defense plan.

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Air Defense Lectures

6.

The air defense lectures [redacted] covered mainly the nature of the atom bomb and protective measures to be taken against an atomic attack. [redacted]

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[redacted] during the first two lecture periods some technical aspects of the atom, i.e., composition, splitting of the atom, the resultant radioactivity, destructive power in terms of TNT, etc., were discussed. Subsequent lectures dealt with the delivery of the bomb by means of aircraft and/or ballistic missiles, and its range of destructive power. An unidentified bomb was mentioned which could destroy or level everything within a radius of 800 meters, and could either collapse or seriously damage buildings within a radius of three to four kilometers. The most effective height for the explosion of the bomb was also discussed [redacted]

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An anticipated air attack would be brought to the attention of the populace by siren blasts, whereupon everybody was to proceed to the nearest air-raid shelter, carrying sufficient food and drink to last a couple of days. This precaution was deemed necessary in the event that the food supply at home or in the stores became contaminated either by radiation or by CW or BW agents. It was recommended that the body be covered with several layers of clothing, and, in case of contamination, to have the outer layer removed by another person. Should one be unable to reach an air-raid shelter, he was to throw himself on the ground and lie there face down. Persons contaminated had to shed their clothing before entering an air-raid shelter. Construction of decontamination centers was discussed also [redacted]

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[redacted] certain agencies distributed printed material on first aid. [redacted]

[redacted] super-intendents of apartment houses in Budapest were appointed block wardens, and were required to attend first aid and air defense lectures. These house superintendents were also responsible for fire prevention. They saw to it that attic rooms and stairways were kept free of combustible materials. In 1956, air raid sirens located on roof tops in various parts of Budapest were repaired and ready for service.

#### Passive Defense Preparedness

7. [redacted] not aware of any concentrated effort to camouflage individual installations and areas, or of any other type of deceptive measure employed in air defense. [redacted]

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In Budapest, however, large scale excavations for the construction of an underground railway system had been in progress for some time. This project was suspended sometime in 1955 because of lack of funds. Tunnels and subway entrances had already been completed, and could be used as air raid shelters in case of an attack. During the summer of 1955, [redacted] a Soviet delegation headed by engineer Oostrovkiy, which was from the Auto Traffic Science Research Institute [redacted]

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[redacted] descended on a make-shift elevator to an entrance located at Engels Square. The length of the tunnel from the entrance at Engels Square to the exit at Deak Ferencz Square was approximately 500 meters. [redacted] the depth of the tunnel to be from 40 to 60 meters.

Other subway entrances in Budapest [redacted] were located at the following places:

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- a. East Railroad Station (Keleti Palyaudvar); under the Kerepesi ut.
- b. Rakoczi ut.
- c. Corvin Square; in front of the National Theater (Nemzeti Szinhaz).
- d. Muzeum Avenue; corner of Rakoczi ut.
- e. Engels Square; formerly called Erzsebet Square, was the biggest of them all.
- f. Potthanyi Square; located in Buda.
- g. South Railroad Station (Deli Palyaudvar); located in Buda.

Air raid shelters that were constructed prior to and during World War II were located in Budapest at the following places:

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- h. Baross Gabor Square; at the East Railroad Station.
- i. November 7 Square; formerly Oktagon Square.
- j. Margit Bridge; entrance on the eastern and western approaches to the bridge.

Large capacity, open, water storage tanks constructed of concrete were located at the following places in Budapest:

- k. East Railroad Station; empty when last observed in 1958.
- l. Horvath Mihaly Square; formerly Maria Terezia Square.
- m. Majakovsky utca and Gorky Parkway (Fasor); formerly known as Kiraly utca and Parkway or Lovolde Square.
- n. Kiralyhago Square in Buda.

8. Prior to 1956, house commanders and block wardens were organized and were already being trained in air-raid drills in Budapest. The exact method of organization, or the type of training given to air-raid wardens was unknown to source. However, he believed that all regulations concerning air defense were disseminated by the local district councils (Kerulet Tanacs), or by the city or village councils. During an air raid, only authorized persons, who were provided with special identity cards, were permitted on the streets; all other persons were required to keep off the streets and to remain either in air-raid shelters or in predetermined house cellars or in other designated areas.

9. [redacted] industrial preparedness against air raids 50X1-HUM included only the normal fire precautionary measures, i.e., sand boxes, water storage tanks, and fire extinguishers. The newly formed industrial militia, which came into being right after the 1956 uprising, also received extensive training in air-raid drills.

10. In case of a flood disaster, a Committee for Flood Defense was formed for rescue and relief work. The VI. Auto Traffic Main Department of the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters, [redacted] had a liaison officer, Dr. Ignac Mojzer, 50X1-HUM assigned to this committee for flood defense. In the event of a flood, Dr. Mojzer was to assist this committee in every way possible. Specifically, he was to dispatch all available mail trucks and vehicles belonging to, or at the disposal of, the Communication and Postal Ministry, to perform rescue and relief services. Dr. Mojzer had direct telephone communication with all subordinate directorates and enterprises, so that in a matter of seconds all directives could be communicated to the unit concerned. [redacted] all the ministries and government 50X1-HUM agencies had direct telephone and teletype communication lines with each other, and that these media of communication could be used in emergencies and/or in transmitting confidential matters.

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Biological and Chemical Warfare Defensive Measures

11. [redacted] little information concerning BW - CW defensive measures. He did not observe any intensive training program in either of these fields. [redacted] a gas mask being demonstrated. The mask resembled those seen during World War II in Hungary. It also resembled the illustrations of a gas mask shown on Figure 19, Tab 22, of the Air Interrogation Guide, with the exception of the canister. Recognition of contaminated areas was also explained, but the details were unknown. [redacted] it was recommended to keep a supply of bicarbonate of soda on hand against certain kinds of burns, and that camellia tea was used against certain internal irritations.

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Supervision of Air Defense Lectures

12. The assignment of supervisory personnel for air defense lectures within the Ministry of Communications and Postal Matters was the responsibility of Ferenc Simon. [redacted] The supervisory schedule was prepared by Simon three months in advance. It listed the name of the place to be visited, the date, and the name of the assigned supervisor. Each of the supervisors received a record book, and was held responsible for submitting a detailed, written report on each of the air defense lectures he attended. The heading of the record book was printed, and included the following format:
- Name of the Enterprise:
- Name of the Lecturer:
- Subject of the Lecture:
- Date:
- Included in the report were the supervisor's personal impression of the lecture, the number of employees attending each lecture, and the manner in which the speaker delivered the lecture. The report was submitted in two copies, the original going to Ferenc Simon, who analyzed all reports. [redacted]
- The reports were generally favorable whether the lecture had been good or poor. The supervisors never knew if the lecturer were a Communist Party member, who might make trouble for the supervisor if he received a poor report. The lecturer, usually an employee of the enterprise where the lecture was held, had received instructions from persons unknown. [redacted]
- As already stated, the lectures generally covered atomic defense, gas defense, and first aid. The gas mask was demonstrated, contamination was discussed, and the names of organizations and their telephone numbers were given in case of an emergency. All lectures were attended by a ministerial supervisor. The supervision was very formal; when the supervisor entered the lecture hall, all those present stood up until he took his seat on the platform near the lecturer. [redacted]

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13. The subordinate units of the VI. Main Auto Traffic Department [redacted] visited on air defense lectures were the following: 50X1-HUM
- a. Auto Repair Shop, located on Vaci ut, Budapest XIII. [redacted] three air defense lectures here between February 1957 and July 1958. The shop had approximately 150 employees, and each session was attended by about 20 employees of both sexes. Other supervisors were also assigned to this shop, which was a general repair shop for postal vehicles. 50X1-HUM
  - b. Auto Traffic Enterprise, located on Papai Istvan ut, near Boráros Square in Budapest IX. [redacted] one lecture here on 16 or 18 September 1958. At this time a gala meeting, initiating a new lecture series, was in progress. There were about 200 employees present, including the director of the Auto Traffic Enterprise, a trade union representative, and the secretary of the local Communist Party. The introductory speakers emphasized the importance of preparedness for air defense, and attacked the imperialistic Western powers who were bent on destroying the workers' democracy. This enterprise had about 200 postal and moving trucks at its disposal. These vehicles were parked in an open area on the grounds of the enterprise. 50X1-HUM
14. [redacted] air defense lectures either have been or will be initiated during the years 1958 and 1959 by all ministries for their respective employees. 50X1-HUM

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